



Creative Writing Division Entry Packet

Grand Island VA Creative Arts Competition

Important Information:

- 1.) Veterans **must** be enrolled at a central/western Nebraska VA location prior to entering competition.
- 2.) There are two separate competition divisions Veterans can enter; Creative Writing and Art. ***This packet is for CREATIVE WRITING entries only.*** Art entries must submit a different entry form located online at:
<https://www.nebraska.va.gov/services/GrandIslandCreativeArtsCompetition.asp>
- 3.) Please read all **CREATIVE WRITING DIVISION RULES** on page 4. Entries that do not meet the requirements listed will be disqualified.
- 4.) A **competition entry** form (page 6) and **signed consent** (pages 7-8) are **required** to enter the competition.
- 5.) A **complete description** of each Creative Writing Category can be found on page 5
- 6.) **Creative Writing entries** must be submitted **electronically** to: alicia.wicht@va.gov.
****Paper copies can be submitted in addition to electronic copies for display purposes only**** (Ex: A poem written on special paper and framed may be provided for display, but an electronic copy of the poem must be submitted for judging purposes)
- 7.) For answers to **frequently asked questions**, please review pages 2 & 3. For all other questions, please contact Alicia Wicht, GIVA Creative Arts Competition Contact.

Return Entry Forms & Creative Writing Documents to:

Alicia Wicht
Whole Health – Building 6
2201 N. Broadwell Ave
Grand Island, NE 68803
Phone: 308.395.3404
Email: alicia.wicht@va.gov

TIMELINE

- Entry Forms and Creative Writing
- **LOCAL Submission deadline & competition dates** **POSTPONED** until Summer 2021
New dates TBA
- **National Veterans Creative Arts Competition Judging:**
October – November 2021
- **National Veterans Creative Arts Competition Winners Notified:**
December 2021
- **National Veterans Creative Arts Festival for 2021 National Winners:**
April 18-24, 2022

Entry forms and Art Submissions must be submitted by: ~~January 29, 2021~~ **New date TBA**

For more information regarding competition rules and regulations, please visit:

<https://www.nebraska.va.gov/services/GrandIslandCreativeArtsCompetition.asp>



Frequently Asked Questions

Grand Island VA Creative Arts Competition

Can I Enter Multiple Artwork/Creative Writing pieces?

No one Veteran will be allowed to enter more than three art categories and one group category in the art division. No one Veteran will be allowed to enter more than three creative writing categories in the creative writing division. No one Veteran will be allowed to enter more than three solo categories and three group categories in the dance, drama and music divisions. *A separate entry form is required for each category entered in each division.*

Can I Re-Enter the Same Piece from Last Year?

Veterans are not permitted to enter a piece of art or creative writing submission that has been previously submitted to any local Creative Arts Competition associated with the National Veterans Creative Arts Competition.

Can I Submit an Entry I Created Many Years Ago?

Veterans must verify that each piece of art or creative writing submission being entered into the Grand Island VA Creative Arts Competition was created after April 1, 2020 unless submitting into the Military Combat Experience Category (*see category list for details*).

When Will the Local GIVA Creative Arts Competition Winners be Notified?

1st, 2nd, and 3rd place winners of the Grand Island VA Local Creative Arts Competition will be notified on Monday, February 8, 2021. All Creative Writing pieces will be available for viewing on Tuesday February 9, 2021 from 8am – 6pm in the Recreation Hall on the 2nd Floor at the Grand Island VA Hospital.

*****Date subject to change based on COVID-19 restrictions at the time of showcase*****

When Can I Pick Up My Entries?

All local First-place winning entries in each Art Category will be submitted to the National Art Division Competition Judging. All local first-place winning entries will need to remain secured at the Grand Island VA until the results of the national competition are received in December 2021.

Further artwork pick-up instructions will be provided to all other GIVA local Creative Arts Competition participants by mail after the date of the showcase.

When Will the National Veterans Creative Arts Competition Occur?

Due to multiple factors including current public health concerns, the National Veterans Creative Arts Competition judging phase will now occur in October and November of 2021.



Frequently Asked Questions Cont.

Grand Island VA Creative Arts Competition

How Will My Entries be Judged by National?

All first place winning entries of the GIVA Local Creative Arts Competition will be submitted to the National Creative Arts Competition electronically for judging. Detailed color photographs of all artwork will be submitted and Creative Writing entries will be submitted as word documents. As with other juried competitions the results are based on subjective reviews by a panel of judges. The scores are not shared publicly, and the judges' decisions are final.

When Will the National Veterans Creative Arts Competition Winners be Notified?

The results of the National Veterans Creative Arts Competition will be announced in December 2021. All Veterans who place first at the national level of the competition will be invited to the Festival.

Following the national judging, the first-place pieces from each art division category should be shipped to the National Veterans Creative Arts Festival host VA facility location. Entries that are extremely fragile may not be shipped and will instead be displayed in the Festival art exhibit as a poster image.

NO GLASS PROTECTIVE LAYER (on flat art) MAY BE USED WHEN SHIPPING NATIONAL FIRST PLACE ARTWORK TO THE FESTIVAL. PLEXIGLAS MUST BE USED INSTEAD. Artwork placed under protective glass and shipped to the NVCAF host VA facility will forfeit their placement in the national competition due to the risk of potential injury to persons unpacking the piece and potential damage to the artwork.

When Will the National Veterans Creative Arts Festival Occur?

All gold medal winners from the National Competition will be invited to participate in the 40th Annual National Veterans Creative Arts Festival in St. Petersburg, Florida April 18-25, 2022.

Veterans who are invited to the Festival and accept the invitation to attend must commit to participating fully in the Festival week to the best of their ability. This includes all workshops, seminars, rehearsals, outings, exhibitions, stage show performance, etc.



Creative Writing Division Rules

Grand Island VA Creative Arts Competition

Entries submitted into the Creative Writing Division will be judged based upon the merit of the original work, creative content, message clarity, use of language, originality of topic or idea, and overall strength.

All Creative Writing entries must be submitted **electronically** to: alicia.wicht@va.gov.

****Paper copies can be submitted in addition to electronic copies for display purposes only****

(Ex: A poem written on special paper and framed may be provided for display, but an electronic copy of the poem must be submitted for judging purposes)

Note: All **National** gold, bronze, and silver creative writing winning entries will be printed in the National Veterans Creative Arts Competition booklet post-National competition *unless otherwise indicated by the Veteran to the local creative arts competition contact, Alicia Wicht by March 22.*

All entries must have been completed after April 1, 2020.

- All entries submitted into the Creative Writing Division must be original compositions written solely by the eligible Veteran who is submitting the entry.
- Veteran's name, VA facility, category, and title of the piece **must be included** at the top of the Word document
- Entries must be submitted as Word documents in 12-point font. Do not send PDF attachments.
- Entries must be submitted as text only. Do not send documents with pictures or graphics. Only the text of the entry will be judged.

If an entry has won a gold medal in the creative writing division at the national level in any category it MAY NOT BE re-submitted into the Creative Writing division in a subsequent year.

National Judges reserve the right to move an entry to the appropriate category or disqualify the entry if rules are not followed. Collections of poems, essays, stories, etc. submitted as one entry will not be allowed.



Creative Writing Division Categories

Grand Island VA Creative Arts Competition

1. **Poetry Rhyming** - A verse composition, **no longer than 48 lines** in length. Poetry humorous entries should be submitted into the Humor category.
2. **Poetry Non-Rhyming** - A composition, **no longer than 48 lines** in length. Poetry humorous entries should be submitted into the Humor category.
3. **Personal Essay** - A non-fiction composition based on something the writer has experienced or felt. Entries in this category must not exceed 850 words.
4. **Humor** - All types of works which employ humor as the primary component should be submitted in this category. **Poetry entries should be no longer than 48 lines and prose entries must not exceed 850 words.**
5. **Short, Short Story** - A short story, no longer than 1,000 words in length. The story must have a beginning, middle, and an end.
6. **Short Script** - Part of a short script for one or more characters, documenting the movement, actions, expression, and dialogue of the characters. Entries in this category must be no longer than 850 words in length.
7. **Military Experience Poetry** – Poetry entries related to military experience should be submitted in this category. Entries must be **no longer than 48 lines in length.**
8. **Military Experience (not poetry)** – Entries (not poetry) related to military experience should be submitted in this category. **Entries in this category must not exceed 850 words.**
9. **Special Recognition** - Individual or group. Entries by Veterans who exhibit creative expression through use of creative writing while possessing significant physical or psychological limitations. The intent of this category is to reinforce the concept of the arts as therapy, where individuals use artistic expression to facilitate successful treatment outcomes. **Poetry entries should be no longer than 48 lines and prose entries must not exceed 850 words.**

Entries in this category **MUST** also include:

A **Word document containing a typed statement/narrative** (25 to 225 words) composed by a VA staff person or the Veteran explaining why the Veteran is deserving of special recognition.
Entries submitted without a write-up will not be judged.



Creative Writing Division Entry Form

Grand Island VA Creative Arts Competition

Please complete all sections unless noted

Individual Entry – For entries submitted by one Veteran.

Veteran Name:	
Last 4 of SSN:	
Veteran Email Address:	
Veteran Mailing Address:	
Veteran Phone Number:	

**Note: Category descriptions can be found on page 7 of this packet*

Category Number & Name:	
Title of Piece	
Word Doc. File Name	

Group Entry – For an entry submitted by a group of Veterans into Special Recognition Category.

Group Name:	
Number of Veterans in Group	

Group Members:

First Name	Last Name	Date of Birth	Last 4 of SSN

Veterans:

By submitting entries into the competition, you are confirming the following statement is true:

I confirm this art piece was completed entirely by me after April 1, 2020. I have read all the rules for the division in which I am entering and confirm that if my art piece is chosen as the national first-place winning entry, it will be exhibition ready when it is shipped to the Festival host site.



CONSENT FOR PRODUCTION AND USE OF VERBAL OR WRITTEN STATEMENTS, PHOTOGRAPHS, DIGITAL IMAGES, AND/OR VIDEO OR AUDIO RECORDINGS BY VA

**Name of individual whose statement,
likeness, or voice is requested:**

NOTE: The execution of this form does not authorize production or use of materials except as specified below. The specified material may be produced and used by VA for authorized purposes identified below, such as education of VA personnel, research activities, or promotional efforts. It may also be disclosed outside VA as permitted by law and as noted below. If the material is part of a VA system of records, it may be disclosed outside VA as stated in the "Routine Uses" in the "VA Privacy Act Systems of Records" published in the Federal Register.

The purpose of this form is to document your consent to the Department of Veterans Affairs' (VA) request to obtain, produce, and/or use a verbal or written statement or a photograph, digital image, and/or video or audio recording containing your likeness or voice. By signing this form, you are authorizing the production or use only as specified below.

You are NOT REQUIRED TO CONSENT TO VA's REQUEST to obtain, produce, and/or use your statement, likeness, or voice. Your decision to consent or refuse will not affect your access to any present or future VA benefits for which you are eligible.

You may rescind your consent at any time prior to or during production of a photograph, digital image, or video or audio recording, or before or during your provision of a verbal or written statement. You may rescind your consent after production is complete if the burden on VA of complying with that request is not unreasonable considering the financial and administrative costs and the ease of compliance of the number of parties involved and **the Veteran's VA facility and the Dept. of VA Office of National Veterans Sports Programs & Special Events.**

The photograph, digital image, and/or video or audio recording will be produced while I am (describe the activity or situation) *(To Be Completed by the Department of Veteran Affairs, if applicable)*

A participant in an adaptive sport or creative arts therapy program sponsored by the Veteran's VA facility and the Office of National Veterans Sports Programs and Special Events (NVSP&SE) and the American Legion Auxiliary.

Check at least one of the following (to be completed by VA)

☒ I hereby voluntarily and without compensation authorize Department of Veterans Affairs NVSP&SE and the Veteran's VA facility to produce a photograph, digital image, and/or video or audio recording of me (or of the above named individual if the individual is legally unable to give consent).

☒ I hereby voluntarily and without compensation authorize Department of Veterans Affairs NVSP&SE and the Veteran's VA facility to obtain or use a verbal or written statement from me (or the of the above-named individual if the individual is legally unable to give consent).

I consent to allowing VA to record and use a verbal or written statement, or produce and use photographs, digital images, and video or audio recording for the purpose(s) identified below:

This product will be used: (NOTE: At least one of these boxes must be checked as well as a purpose described below) (to be completed by VA)



Internally (stay within VA)



Externally (shared outside VA)

Please check the applicable purpose(s) (to be completed by VA)

Promotional Efforts:

☒ Internal Publication (only VA) ☒ External publication (publicly available)

☒ Other (Specify): Newspapers, radio stations, television stations, participant profiles, souvenir program booklet and DVD, and other media outlets. In addition, VA may release this information to sponsor organizations of the National Veterans Sports Programs and Special Events in the form of other media products to promote the positive aspects of creative arts therapy.

Research Activities: ☒ Study

Education Purposes:

☒ Presentation ☒ Conference ☒ Publication in a Journal ☒ Training

☐ Other (Specify):

VA ONLY Use:

☐ Performance Improvement ☐ Quality Improvement ☐ Health Care Operations

☐ Other (Specify):

☒ All of the Above

NOTE: Do not sign this form unless one or more of the boxes above has been checked.

I have read and understand the foregoing, and I consent to the use of a verbal or written statement from me, and/or of my likeness and/or voice as specified for the above-described purpose(s). I understand that no royalty, fee, or other compensation of any kind will be made to me by the United States for such use. I understand that consent to obtain, produce, and/or use a verbal or written statement, photograph, digital image, and video or audio recording containing my likeness or voice is voluntary, and my refusal will not adversely affect my access to any present or future VA benefits for which I am eligible. I further understand that I may, at any time, rescind my consent prior to or during production of a photograph, digital image, or video or audio recording. I also understand that I may rescind my consent after production is complete if the burden on VA of complying with that request is not unreasonable considering the financial and administrative costs, the ease of compliance, and the number of parties involved.

Print Veteran Full Name (First and Last Name)	Veteran Signature	Date
<i>Permission Obtained By (TO BE COMPLETED BY VA)</i> Print VA Employee Full Name	Title	Date
<i>Signature of Person Obtaining Consent (TO BE COMPLETED BY VA)</i> Print VA Employee Full Name	VA Employee Signature	Date

IMPORTANT: If VA is providing or releasing any patient health or demographic information with the verbal or written statement, photograph, digital image, or video or audio recording, VA Form 10-5345, Request for and Authorization to Release Medical Records or Health Information, is required prior to the release of such data to any source outside VA. **VA FORM 10-3203 NOV 2014**